



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

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Testimony by Patricia A. Rehmer, MSN, Commissioner
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Before the Appropriations, Human Services and
Public Health Committees
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SAPT BLOCK GRANT HEARING

Good morning, Senator Harp, Senator Slossberg, Senator Gerratana, Representative Walker, Representative Abercrombie, Representative Johnson, and distinguished members of the Appropriations, Human Services and Public Health Committees. I am Pat Rehmer, Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. I am here before you today to present the department's federal fiscal year (FFY) 2014 Allocation Plan for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant.

The Allocation Plan before you assumes a federal Block Grant of \$16,677,154. This figure reflects a decrease of about \$200,000 in funding from the previous allocation amount. Actual funding for FFY 2014 will not be known until Congress passes its budget.

Please keep in mind, as you review this plan, that it represents only a portion of DMHAS' spending for substance abuse prevention and treatment services. Most of the programs which are funded with federal Block Grant dollars also receive state funding. There is no reduction in the overall funding of addiction services or of any particular service. Any reductions contained in the FFY 2014 SAPT Allocation Plan are only the result of changes in funding allocation between the SAPT block grant and state funds. The state funding component is not reflected in the plan before you today. It is important to note that this plan does not take into account any sequestration reductions that may be implemented in federal fiscal year 2014.

Block Grant-funded activities include prevention, education, and services for the treatment of alcohol and other drug addiction (such as detoxification, residential and outpatient rehabilitation). The department has advanced from a "recovery-oriented" system to a "recovery system of care" in which interagency collaboration and service integration are realized through modernization of data management, use of evidence-based practices, and a comprehensive approach to treating the individual.

This Allocation Plan is based upon our knowledge of the needs of persons who access our services and the approaches that are most effective in meeting those needs. The plan serves to facilitate DMHAS' "recovery system of care" in which individuals, regardless of the complexity of issues they present, are provided the supports needed to improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive to reach their full potential.

DMHAS is aggressively moving forward to ensure that the resources available to address the service needs of our citizens are used wisely. This FFY 2014 SAPT Block Grant Allocation Plan is an important component of reaching our goals.

It should be noted that the President's budget plan includes a new three-percent set-aside to assist states as they transition to the first year of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Should the President's budget plan be approved as is by Congress, implementation of this set-aside would assist providers with outreach, enrollment, and billing of eligible individuals into health insurance programs and would result in changes to this allocation plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant. I would be happy to take any questions you may have at this time.